United Nations S/2015/494

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 June 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 26 June 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to write to you about an urgent issue relating to demining in Cyprus. As you are aware, including through my reports to the Security Council on the matter, there are still a significant number of minefields in Cyprus, both within and beyond the United Nations-controlled buffer zone.

On 30 December 2014, for the second time in two years, heavy rains washed down some 60 anti-tank and anti-personnel mines into the buffer zone from a Turkish forces minefield (UN-1140), located north of the Turkish forces ceasefire line. The development endangers the lives of peacekeepers patrolling the area and of Cypriot civilians farming in close proximity to the affected area.

In the absence of a demining component within the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus and on the basis of an initial risk assessment made by the United Nations Mine Action Service, I dispatched to Cyprus as a matter of urgency a small unit of Cambodian deminers currently serving in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon to conduct a clearance operation, under the framework of Inter-Mission Cooperation.

Mindful of the calls by the Security Council to implement confidence-building measures, including for demining operations to resume, and given the evident safety-related aspects, I count on the concurrence of the Security Council for the Cambodian deminers to remain in Cyprus under the current arrangement until early August 2015, by which time the clearance operation should be completed.

I will brief the Council in more detail in my next report on the United Nations operation in Cyprus, due by 10 July 2015, as will my Special Representative for Cyprus, Lisa Buttenheim, when she presents the report on 22 July 2015.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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